

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LIMITATIONS OF FREEDOM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have twice in my life been denied passage at a wall or fence with both times being a limitation of freedom.

On June 12, 1990, I was denied passage in Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate by an East German Communist guard directing me to Checkpoint Charlie at the junction of Friedrichstraße.

On February 25, 2021, I was denied passage in Washington at 2nd and C Street, which I have walked for 20 years, at a locked 12-foot fence topped with razor wire until a courageous Capitol Police Officer arrived to unlock the gate for me to be released from Capitol Hill confinement.

I appreciate the efforts of District of Columbia Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON to prevent permanent fencing surrounding Capitol Hill, which isolates legislators from constituents.

Unobtrusive security can be implemented and installed without abusing National Guard personnel who are dedicated in their service. As a 31-year Guard veteran and grateful Guard Dad of three members, I know firsthand of Guard commitment.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

REMEMBERING BARBARA LUBIN

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Barbara Lubin who passed away on February 6, 2021 at the age of 63 following a cancer diagnosis. No one knew Democratic politics in Arizona the way that she did, knowledge that she put to good use at the Arizona Democratic Party in the role of Operations Director. Barb had an extensive career in politics including her own run for the Arizona Corporation Commission and her service as the director of the Clean Elections Institute.

Barb was warm, kind, always ready to share a story or a meal, and most of all incredibly funny. She and her mother first talked me into running for the legislature when we were all living in Flagstaff, and I feel so grateful to have been so close to her and her family when I was representing that area. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Barb's husband Stanley, their daughter Jessica, their son-in-law James and their two granddaughters Abigail and Elizabeth, as well as the larger Arizona Democratic community who

loved her. Barb represented the best of Arizona, and her legacy will live on far beyond her.

HONORING RON WRIGHT

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 7th, we were forced to say goodbye to my dear friend and fellow Representative, Ronald "Ron" Wright.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, Ron inspired all with an unshakeable drive to make his community a better place. Ron was a committed Texan through and through, and among those values he held most dear were those of integrity and hard work.

Ron's jobs over the years reflect this. He spent his early years milking cows—on the family dairy farm, then proceeded to 30 years in business, working in construction, media, sales, and management. But throughout his time in the private sector, Ron couldn't quite shake a deeper desire to serve. He served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Tarrant County Historical Commission, the Arlington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, the Mansfield Education Foundation board, the Arlington Sports Authority, and the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

In 2000, Ron made the permanent switch to public service when he was elected to the Arlington City Council. In this role, Ron fought to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. After serving 8 years on the City Council, Ron accepted an appointment to become the Tax Assessor-Collector of Tarrant County. He was later elected to a full term by the voters of Tarrant County, then re-elected to a four-year term in November 2016.

In 2018, Ron was elected by the constituents of Texas' 6th Congressional District to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. In this capacity, Ron fought to improve the lives of his fellow North Texans, and he served as a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Education and Labor.

I had the opportunity to learn from Ron last Congress during our time on the Foreign Affairs Committee. In my conversations with Ron, I was struck by his wit, charm, and readiness to solve the problems affecting all Americans.

During his time in Congress—Ron, famous for his impeccable taste in bow ties, began every day with a smile on his face. He worked with everyone, looking past the bounds of party lines in his desire to find solutions for the American people. In 2019, Ron was diagnosed with lung cancer. In the face of this challenge Ron did not balk but maintained a rigorous work schedule and inspired us all with his fortitude and lasting sense of humor.

Ron was a fighter, a proven conservative, and a true statesman. The citizens of Texas' 6th District have lost a leader and we here in Congress have lost a dear friend. My heart goes out to Ron's wife, Susan, their three children, and their nine grandchildren. Ron Wright was a warrior, and someone who passionately fought for his constituents, for Texas, and for America—he will be missed.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY EACH YEAR AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for its leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and

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